



Press Release

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SBA & Mayor Peyton Visit Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

SBA District Director and Mayor Peyton visit with 4 local Veteran-owned small business owners and with a Veteran non-profit organization

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – SBA District Director, Wilfredo J. Gonzalez and Jacksonville's Mayor John Peyton spent the day on Friday, April 11th visiting with and touring four Veteran-owned small businesses in Jacksonville. Dan McCarthy, Military Affairs Director for the City of Jacksonville also joined this small business tour. These visits allow Mayor Peyton the opportunity to learn in detail about small businesses in his jurisdiction as well as hear any concerns the small business owners may have that the City may address.

Mayor Peyton and SBA District Director, Wilfredo J. Gonzalez, visited at length with Alan and Misty Manges, Owners of A & M Motorcycle Safety Course located at Herlong Airport. Alan is a Veteran of the Air National Guard and Misty operated their small business while he was on active duty. They both received assistance from the Small Business Development Center at UNF and in turn, were approved for an SBA guaranteed loan through American Enterprise Bank; SBA's first approved Patriot Express Lender in North Florida.

Mayor Peyton and Wilfredo Gonzalez next visited with the Oxley family at their family and Veteran-owned small business, Oxley Cabinet Warehouse, Inc. on West Beaver Street. Bill Oxley, President, is a Veteran of the Navy and a very successful businessman. Mr. Oxley is a recipient of two separate SBA guaranteed loans; their second loan fell under the SBA's 504 Loan program, and it allowed the Oxley's to purchase the building they warehouse cabinets and operate their business.

Next on the Veteran-owned small business tour was Advanced Technology Solutions, Inc. The Mayor and Mr. Gonzalez met with Audrey Hernandez, President and Navy Veteran of the Vietnam War. Ms. Hernandez is extremely passionate of her business and her devoted staff, majority of which are Veterans as well. Advanced Technology Solutions specializes in industry-leading Autodesk products.

Mayor Peyton and Mr. Gonzalez next visited with DAK Resources, Inc. and participated in their official ribbon-cutting ceremony with Wally Lee, President of the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Owners of DAK Resources, Inc., David Moorefield and Kathy Shoff. David, Kathy and their dedicated staff actively seek employment for service-disabled Veterans. DAK Resources has recently been approved to receive an SBA Patriot Express Loan.

The last stop on the small business tour with Mr. Gonzalez and Mayor Peyton was a visit with the Wounded Warrior Project; a non profit organization whose national headquarters are located in Jacksonville. John Melia, President of the Wounded Warrior Project welcomed Mayor Peyton and Mr.

Gonzalez. Scott Hatcher, Deputy for Small Business for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command also participated in the meeting. The Wounded Warrior Project is a non-profit organization that seeks to assist those men and women of our armed forces (since 2002) who have been severely injured during the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations around the world. Many of the injuries are traumatic: amputations, gunshot wounds, burns and blast injuries that will retire these brave warriors from military service.

“Friday’s tour was the 6th small business tour the SBA has taken with Mayor Peyton. We have visited Hispanic-owned, women-owned, Asian American-owned and African American-owned small businesses. We have also taken a day to highlight the ethnic Chambers of Commerce in Jacksonville creating a Memorandum of Agreement with all of the Chambers to work together to assist in growing our small business community,” says Wilfredo J. Gonzalez of the SBA. The SBA and the City of Jacksonville plan to continue the tours of small businesses around Jacksonville to highlight small business successes in the area and to provide an opportunity for open communication between the city’s leader and small business owners.

For more information on SBA’s programs and Services in North Florida, please visit www.sba.gov/fl/north.

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